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# Sudama





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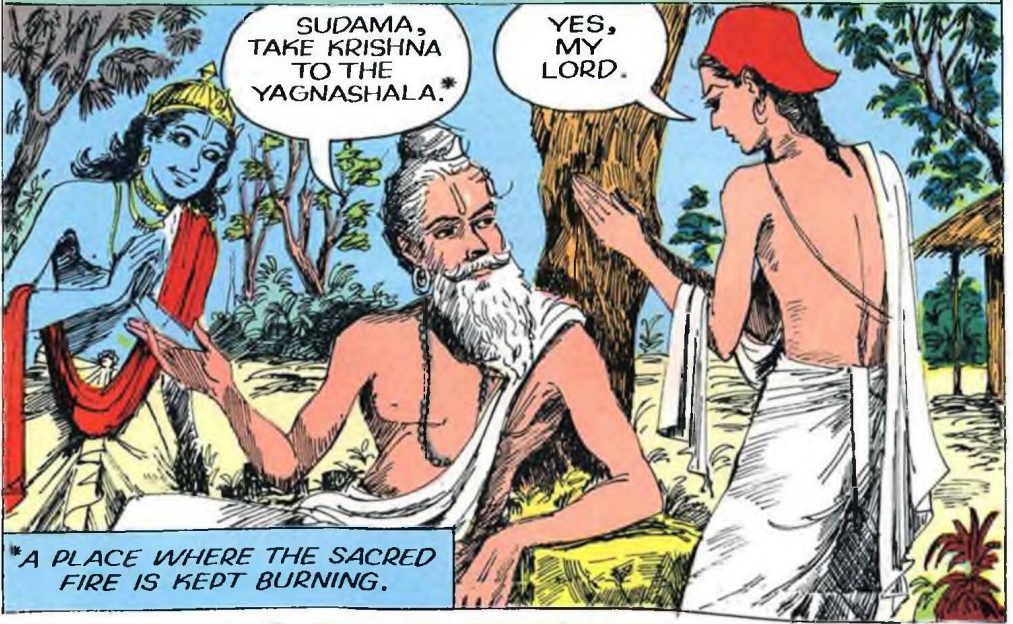
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# SUDAMA

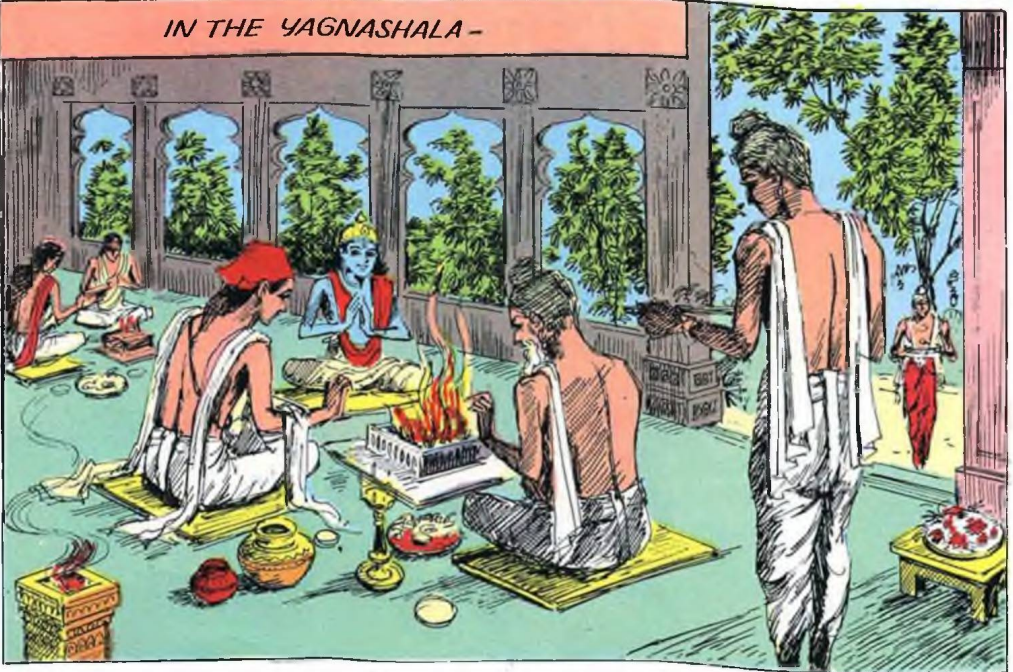
*SUDAMA WAS A POOR BRAHMAN BOY. HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF KRISHNA.*



SUDAMA AND KRISHNA HAD MET IN GURU SANDIPANI'S ASHRAM.



IN THE YAGNASHALA -





YOUR RENDERING OF THE VEDIC HYMNS IS ALMOST PERFECT.

I HAVE GOT IT FROM MY FATHER, GURU SANDIPANI AND HE WERE GOOD FRIENDS.

*SUDAMA OFTEN PRACTISED WITH KRISHNA.*



*ONE DAY, SANDIPANI'S WIFE CALLED THE BOYS TO HER.*



WILL YOU GO AND BRING ME SOME FIREWOOD FROM THE FOREST?

SOON AFTER THEY  
ENTERED THE FOREST...



...A TERRIBLE STORM BROKE OUT.



KRISHNA!



AT LAST THE STORM CLEARED, BUT  
NIGHT HAD FALLEN.

WE HAVE  
LOST OUR  
WAY.

DO NOT BE  
FRIGHTENED, SUDAMA.  
I AM WITH YOU.



WHEN THE BOYS DID NOT RETURN -



I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE BOYS. I WILL GO AND LOOK FOR THEM.

GURU SANDIPANI FOUND THE BOYS AFTER A LONG SEARCH.



LIFE IS DEAR TO ALL AND YET YOU HAVE DISREGARDED THAT LIFE FOR MY SAKE ...

AND HE GRANTED THEM A BOON.

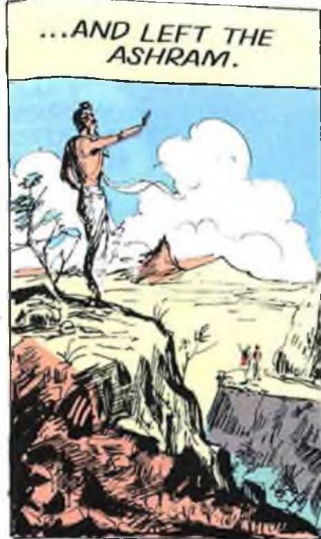
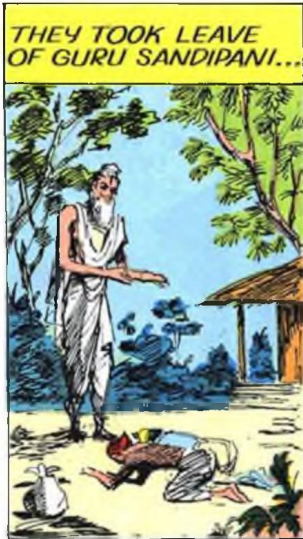


YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS IN THIS WORLD OR THE NEXT.

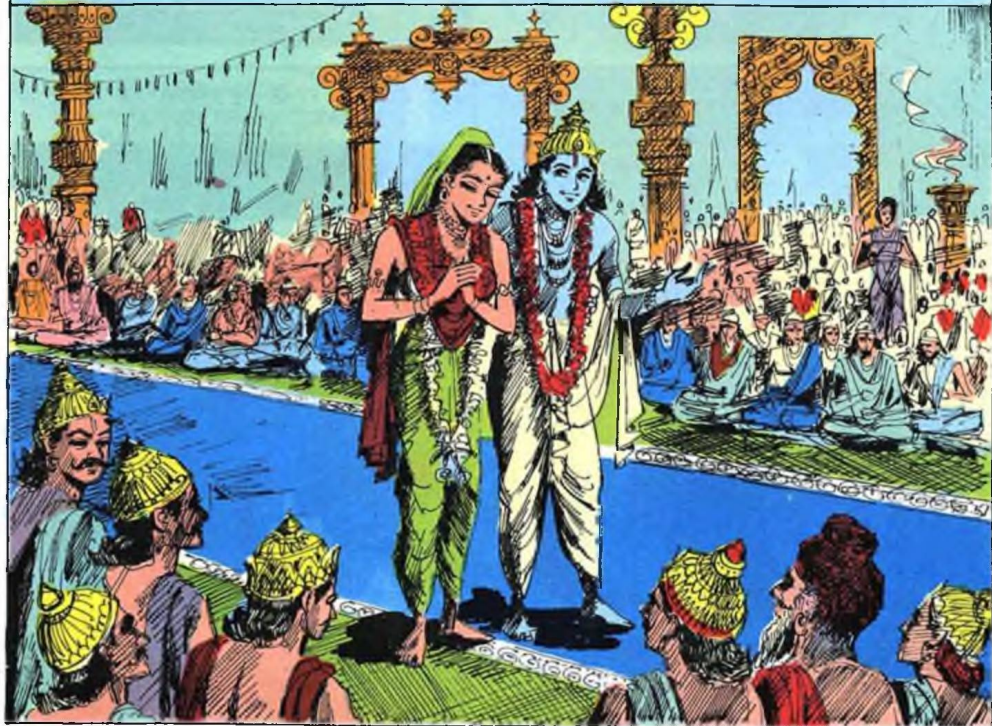
AT LAST THE PERIOD OF THEIR STUDIES WAS OVER.



TOMORROW WE PART AND GO OUR WAYS.



YEARS PASSED. KRISHNA BECAME THE LORD OF DWARKA AND MARRIED PRINCESS RUKMINI, THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE.

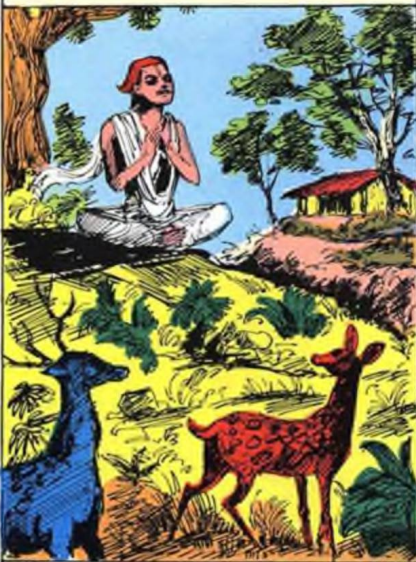




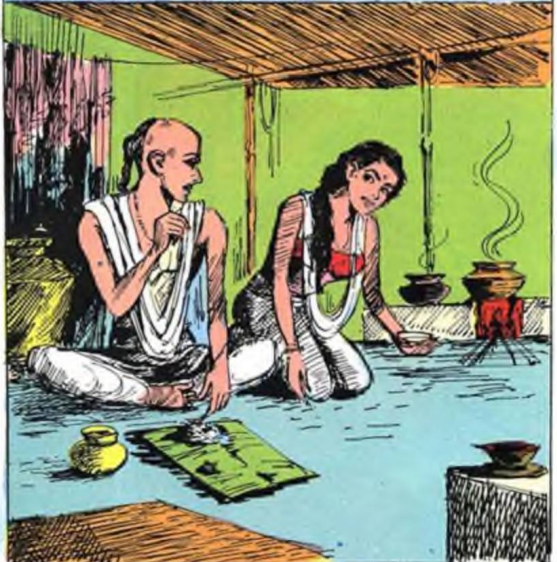
*SUDAMA MARRIED A BRAHMAN GIRL .*



*HE DID NOT CARE FOR  
WORLDLY PLEASURES...*



*...AND LIVED IN DIRE POVERTY.*



EVERYONE LOVED SUDAMA AND HE HAD NO ENEMIES.



BUT HIS WIFE WAS SORELY TRIED BY THE LIFE SHE HAD TO LEAD.



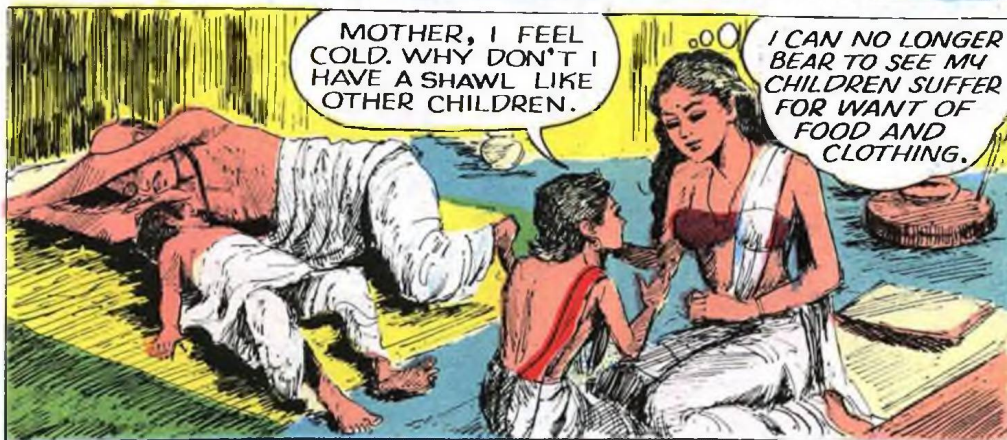
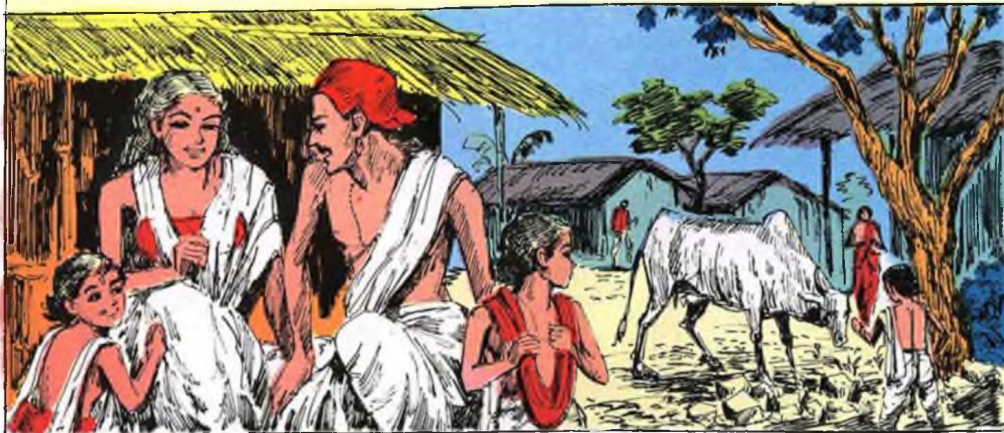
SHE PATIENTLY BORE IT ALL ...



...FOR SHE LOOKED UPON SUDAMA AS HER GOD.



SOON CHILDREN WERE BORN TO THEM AND THE CHILDREN TOO HAD TO LEAD AN AUSTERE LIFE.



THAT NIGHT WHEN THE CHILDREN HAD SLEPT -

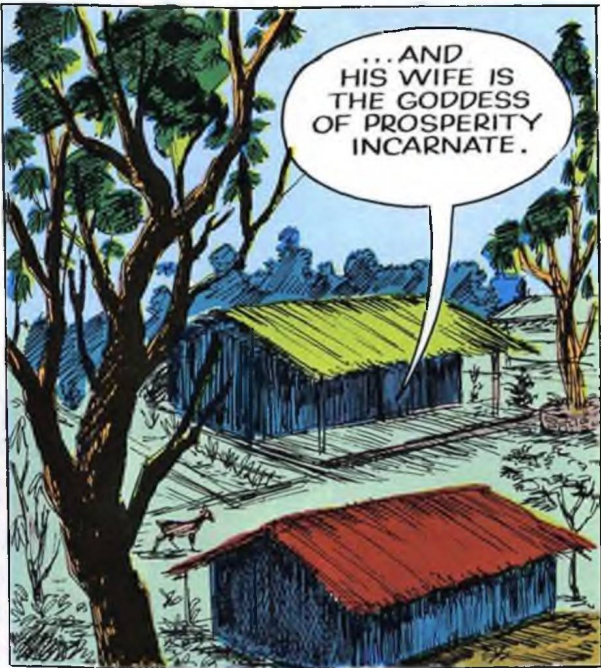


I BEG YOU TO BE PATIENT WITH ME, MY LORD.

DO NOT FEAR. SPEAK OUT YOUR HEART, MY GOOD LADY. DO NOT FEAR.



YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT KRISHNA OF DWARKA IS YOUR FRIEND...



...AND HIS WIFE IS THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE.

THE PROSPERITY OF DWARKA FLASHED BEFORE HER MIND'S EYE.



GO MY LORD, I BESEECH YOU, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR DEAR CHILDREN AND MEET KRISHNA.

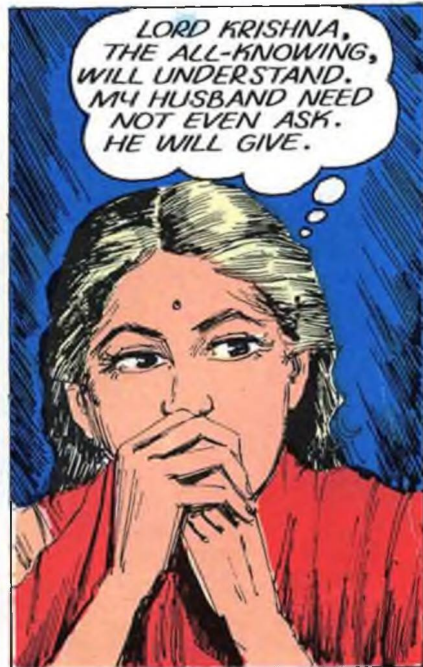


THE VERY PROSPECT OF MEETING MY DEAR FRIEND AFTER SO MANY YEARS MAKES ME HAPPY.





SUDAMA'S WIFE COULD BARELY CONCEAL HER JOY.



ONE THOUGHT OCCURRED TO BOTH OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME.

I CANNOT SEND MY HUSBAND EMPTY-HANDED.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN THE HOUSE? ANYTHING WORTHY OF BEING PRESENTED TO KRISHNA?



SUDAMA'S WIFE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING.

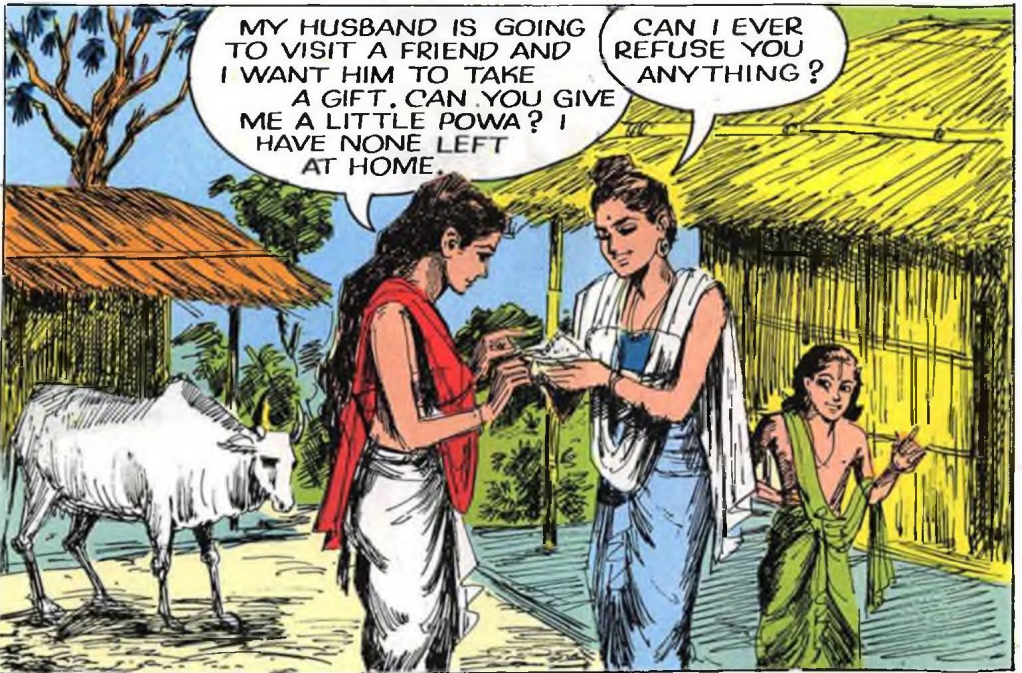
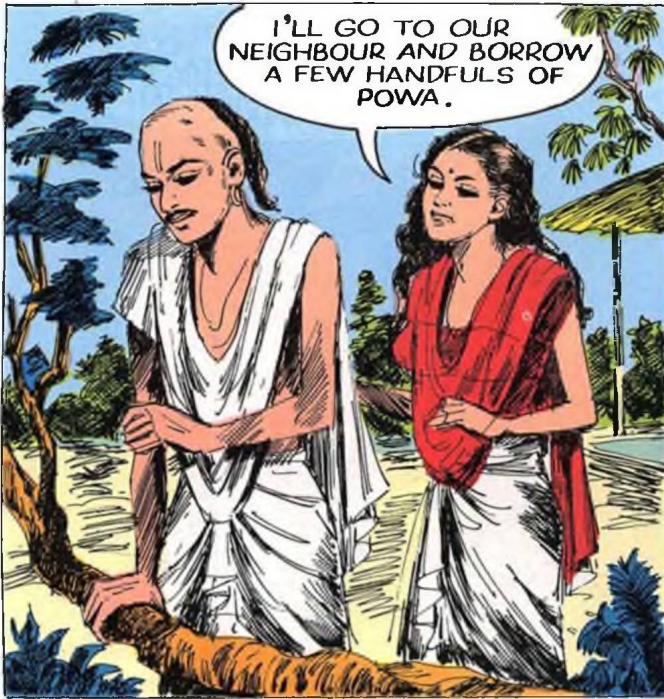
MY LORD USED TO TELL ME HOW KRISHNA LOVED TO EAT POWA\*.



\*FLATTENED RICE.

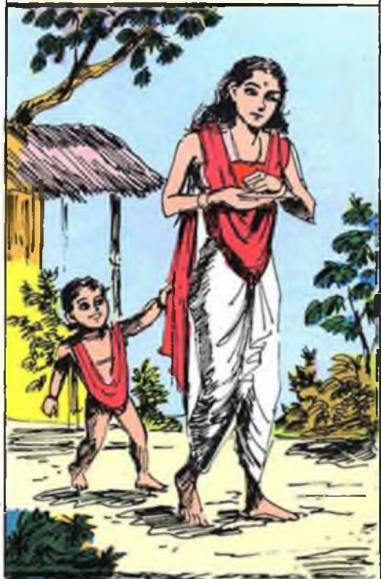


SUDAMA TOO REMEMBERED HOW KRISHNA HAD SNATCHED SOME POWA FROM HIS HAND.





SUDAMA'S WIFE BROUGHT  
THE POWA TO HIM.



BUT SHE COULD FIND NOTHING TO TIE  
IT IN SO...



SHE TORE THE END  
OF HER GARMENT...



... AND HANDED THE  
BUNDLE OF POWA  
TO SUDAMA.



HE TOOK LEAVE  
OF HIS WIFE...



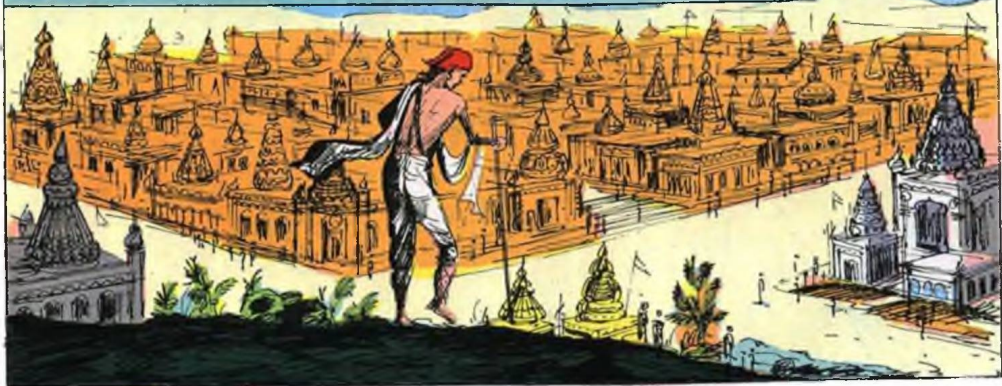
...AND SET OUT ON THE JOURNEY TO DWARKA.



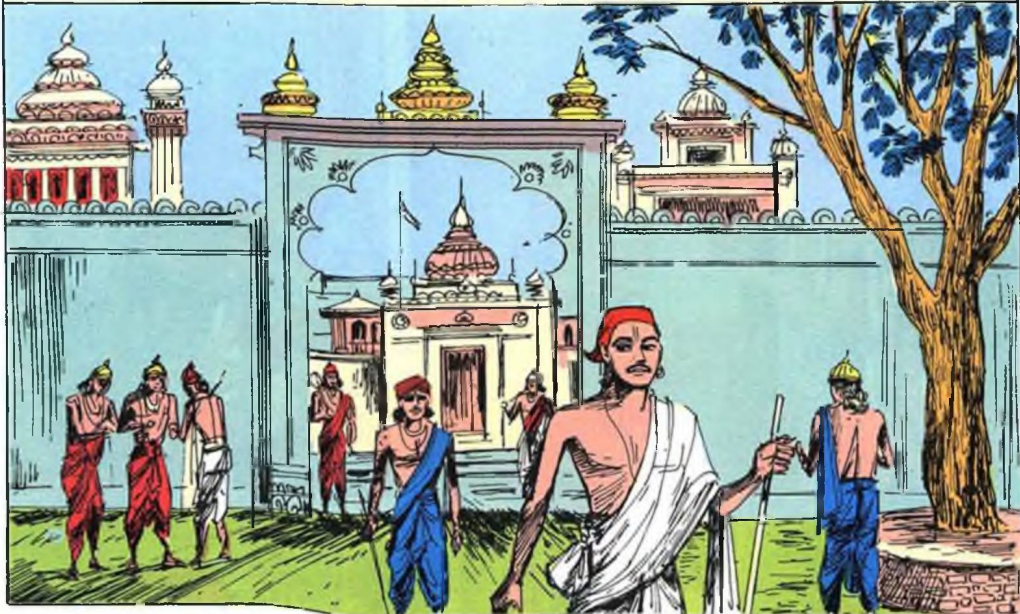
THE ROUTE WAS AN INTERESTING,  
THOUGH LONG ONE.



AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT, HE HAD REACHED DWARKA.



WHEN HE CAME TO THE OPEN GATES OF THE PALACE AT DWARKA,  
NO ONE STOPPED HIM AS HE ENTERED.



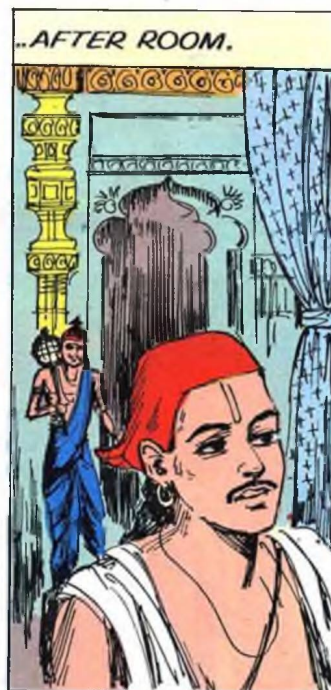
HE WALKED INTO  
THE PALACE GROUNDS



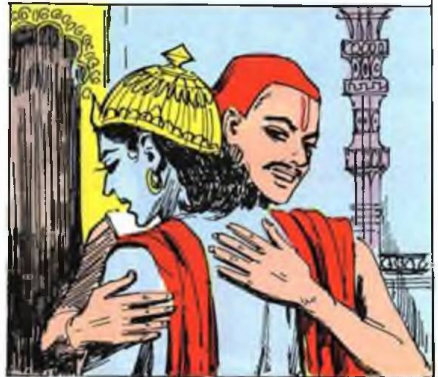
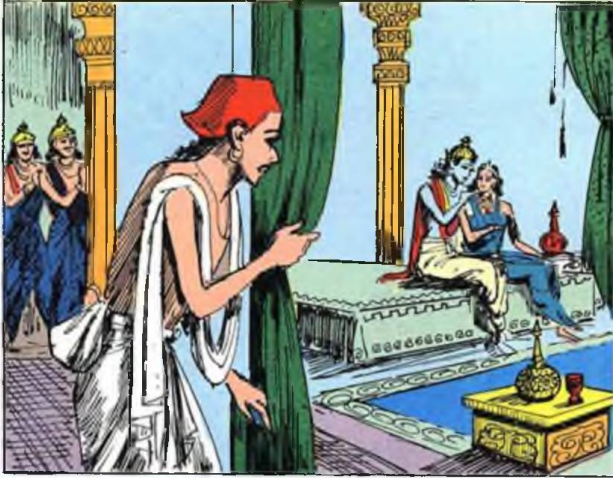
..AND THROUGH ROOM..

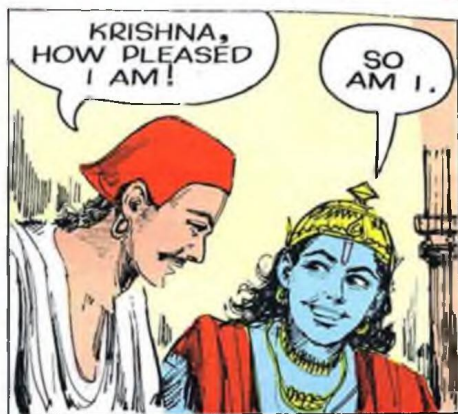


..AFTER ROOM.



AT LAST HE FOUND KRISHNA AND RUKMINI.





KRISHNA APPLIED SANDALWOOD  
PASTE TO SOOTHE THE TIRED  
LIMBS OF SUDAMA.



AND PUT PIECES OF BETEL  
NUT INTO HIS MOUTH.



THE PALACE ATTENDANTS  
WONDERED.

WHAT GREAT ACT OF  
MERIT HAS THIS DIRTY  
BEGGAR IN TATTERED  
GARMENTS PERFORMED  
TO BE SO DELIGHTFULLY  
WELCOMED?



RUKMINI, WE MUST  
DO EVERYTHING  
POSSIBLE TO MAKE  
HIS STAY HERE COM-  
FORTABLE.

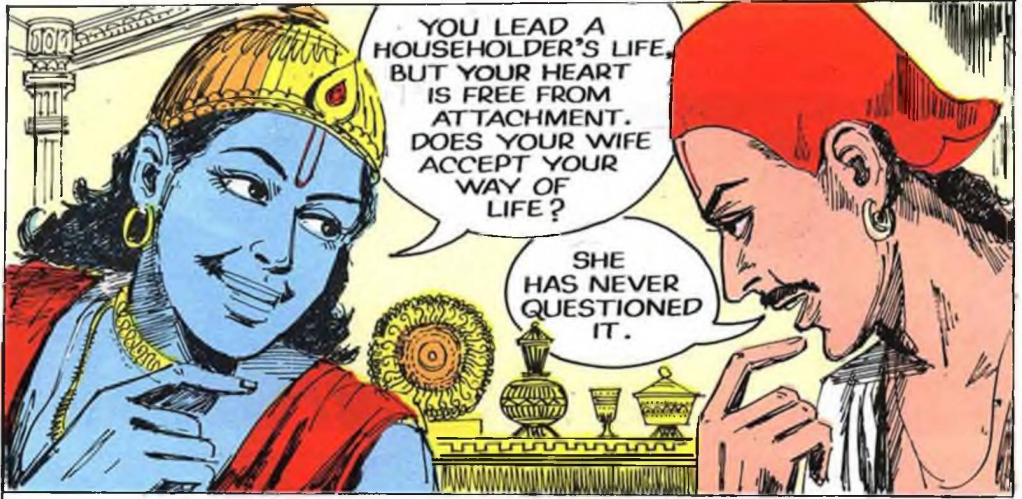


AT LAST AFTER SUDAMA WAS REFRESHED -

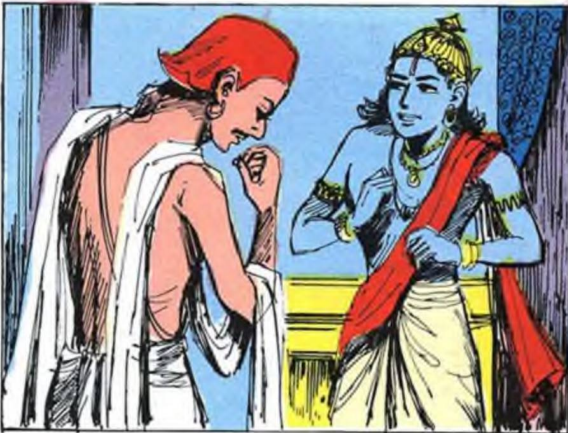
TELL ME,  
HAVE YOU  
MARRIED?

YES,  
MY WIFE  
IS A GOOD  
BRAHMAN  
WOMAN.





*KRISHNA SAW THE RAG BUNDLE, TIED TO SUDAMA'S WAIST.*



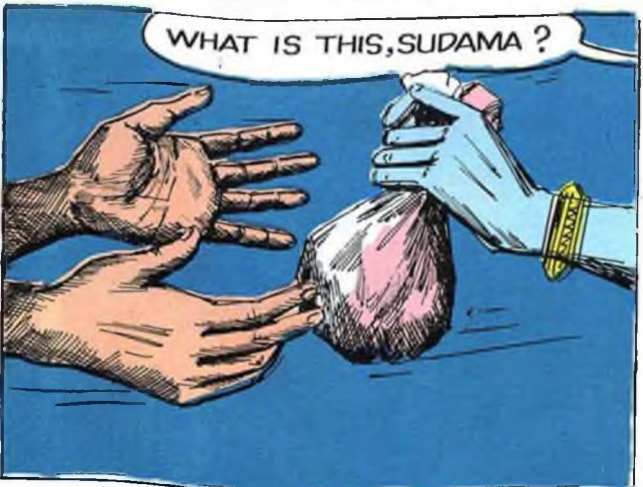
WHEN KRISHNA SAW THAT  
SUDAMA WAS ASHAMED TO  
GIVE HIM THE BUNDLE -

THE POOREST  
OF GIFTS GIVEN  
TO ME WITH LOVE  
IS DEARER TO ME  
THAN THE RICH-  
EST OF GIFTS  
GIVEN WITHOUT  
LOVE.



HOW CAN I GIVE  
MY RAG BUNDLE  
TO ONE WHO  
HAS ALL?

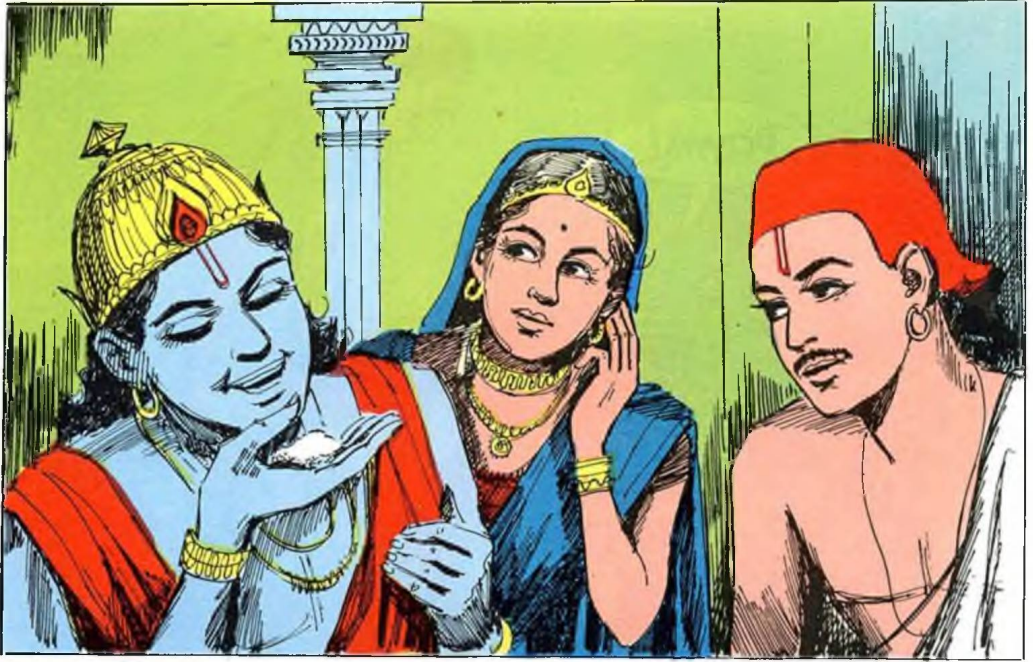
HE HAS NOT COME TO  
ASK ANYTHING FOR  
HIMSELF. HE HAS COME  
OUT OF LOVE FOR HIS  
WIFE AND ME!



WHAT IS THIS, SUDAMA ?





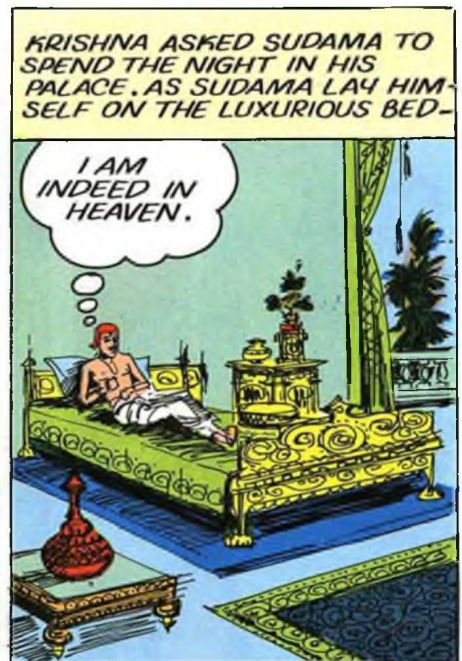


WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO PICK A SECOND HANDFUL -



IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE TO CONTROL ITS DISTRIBUTION.





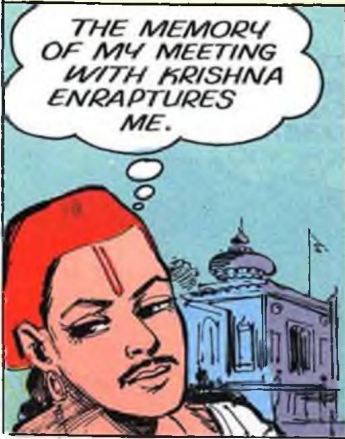
THE NEXT MORNING  
SUDAMA TOOK LEAVE  
OF KRISHNA AND  
RUKMINI.



DON'T FORGET US,  
SUDAMA, WHEN YOU  
GO BACK HOME.



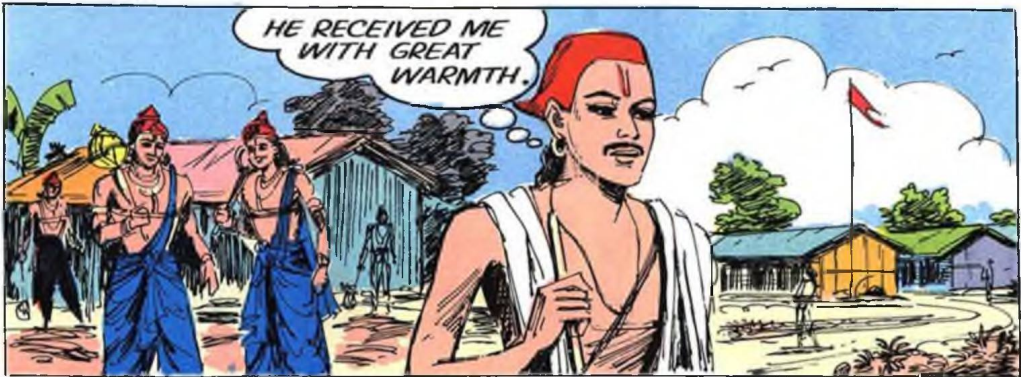
ON HIS WAY HOME, SUDAMA RELIVED HIS RECENT EXPERIENCES.



THE MEMORY OF MY MEETING WITH KRISHNA ENRAPTURES ME.



I DID NOT ASK AND HE DID NOT GIVE. BUT I AM CONTENT.



HE RECEIVED ME WITH GREAT WARMTH.



HE EMBRACED ME BECAUSE I WAS HIS FRIEND.



HE SAT ME ON THE SAME COUCH AS THE GODDESS AND IT WAS SHE WHO FANNED ME.

SUDAMA'S FEET ACHED.



I WAS RECEIVED  
WITH HOSPITALITY  
AND HE WASHED  
MY FEET.

HE MUST HAVE  
THOUGHT THAT IF HE  
GAVE ME WEALTH,  
I WOULD FORGET HIM.  
HE HAS SAVED ME.  
I AM FORTUNATE  
INDEED.

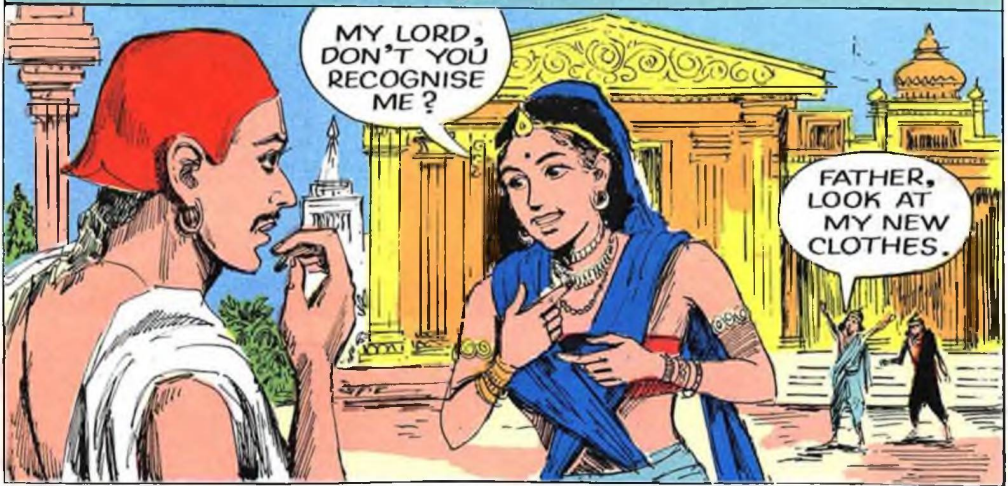


BUT WHEN HE NEARED HIS HOME...

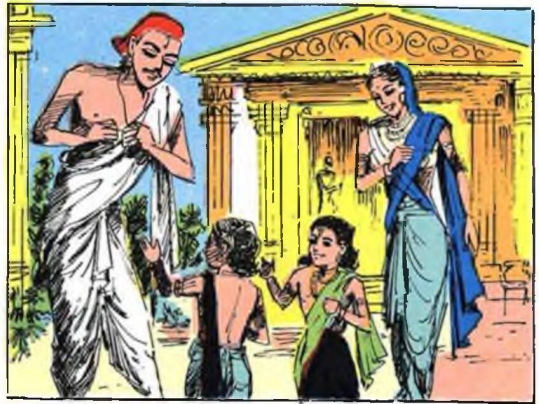
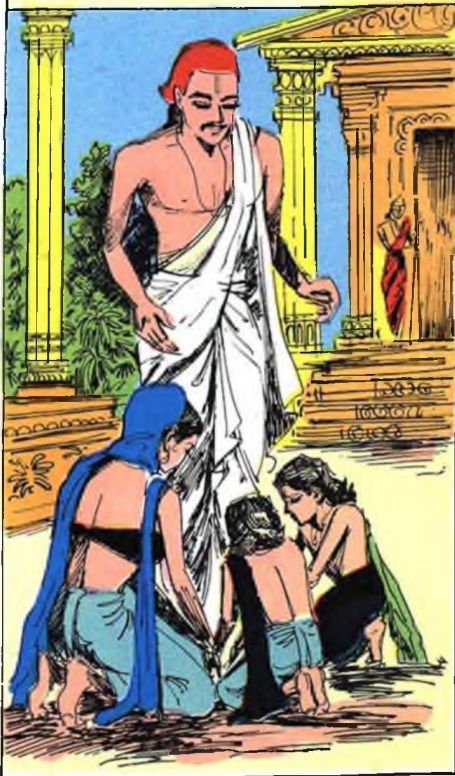
WHAT IS ALL THIS?  
TO WHOM DOES IT BELONG?  
WHERE IS MY HUT?



SUDAMA'S WIFE AND CHILDREN CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM, BUT-

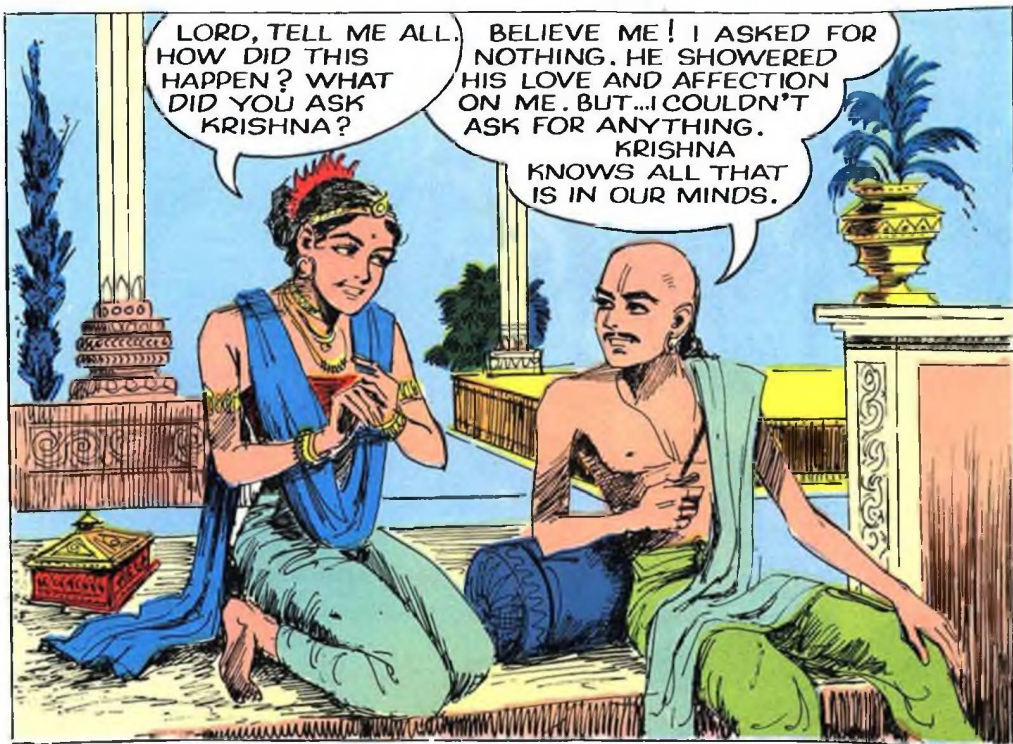
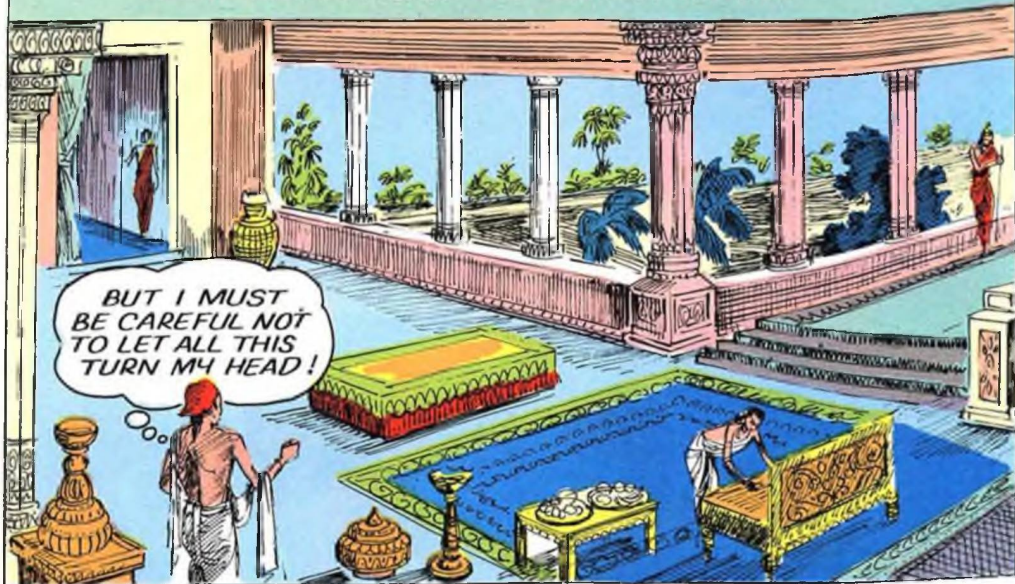


AND SUDAMA UNDERSTOOD ALL.

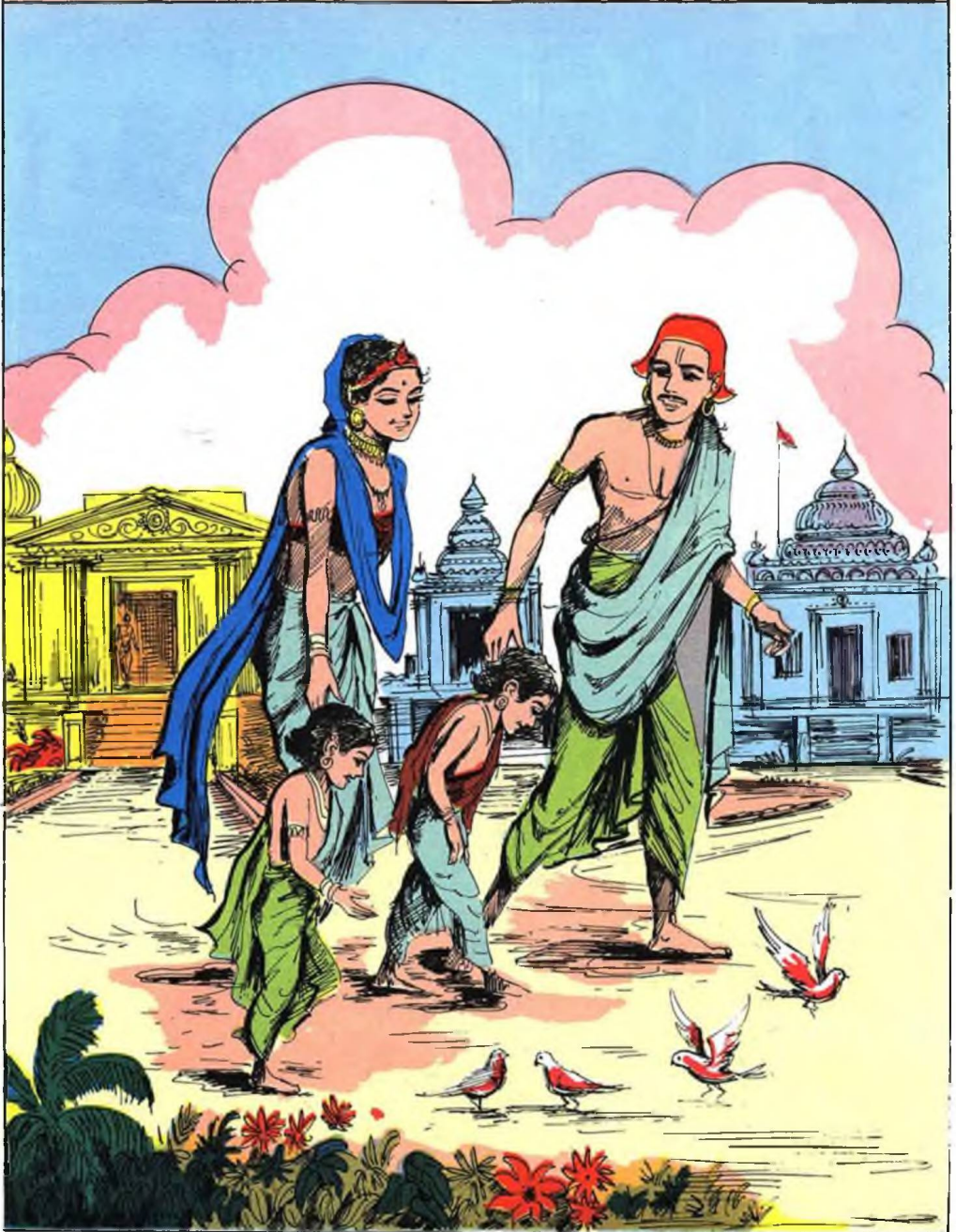




WHEN SUDAMA SAW THE LUXURY WITHIN -



AND THEY TALKED ENDLESSLY ABOUT THE GLORY AND GREATNESS OF LORD KRISHNA.





Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend, through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 400 titles have been published in the Amar Chitra Katha comic series that are approved by parents, appreciated by children and accepted by schools.



## Mythology

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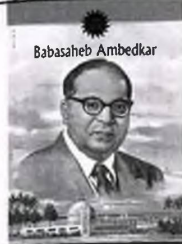
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## Illustrated Classics From India

### Sudama

The tenth book of the Bhagawat Purana, gives in detail the life story of Lord Krishna – his birth, early childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The many incidents narrated are full of adventure and romance and at the same time inspire, enlighten and guide human beings whose aim is to ennoble their lives and attain God.

The story of Sudama (a great devotee and childhood friend of Lord Krishna), which has retained its popularity with children down the ages, occurs in the same tenth book. The love of Krishna for Sudama forms the theme of many a devotional song and this story has been a source of sustenance of faith to the poor in the land. Sudama has understood the principle of non-attachment. He lives in dire poverty, and yet is happy. His wife too is content to do the same till some children are born to them.

How Sudama's wife coaxes him to go and see Krishna, his prosperous and generous childhood friend, and what happens when Sudama does is retold in pictures in the following pages.

**Editor: Anant Pai**

**Script: Kamala Chandrakant   Illustrations: Prabhakar Khanolkar**

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